

ANIMAL LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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SB 0403

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The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Animal Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Animal Law Section is 244.

The position was adopted after an electronic discussion and vote. The number of members in the decision-making body is 16. The number who voted in favor to this position was 15. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

Report on Public Policy Position**Name of Section:**

Animal Law Section

Contact person:

Ann M. Griffin

E-Mail:annmgriffin@hotmail.com**Bill Number:**

[SB 0403](#) (Knollenberg) Animals; animal shelters; methods of euthanizing animals; restrict to injection of certain commercially prepared solutions. Amends [1969 PA 287](#) (MCL [287.331](#) - [287.340](#)) by adding sec. 8b.

Date position was adopted:

January 11, 2016

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after an electronic discussion and vote

Number of members in the decision-making body:

16

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

15 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

1 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

This bill would ban euthanasia of dogs and cats in animal control shelters using a gas chamber and would require euthanasia by injection (EBI). While most of the Michigan counties that were still using gas chambers have responded to public pressure in recent months and have discontinued use of their gas chambers, there is a chance that a chamber could be used again unless there is a state-wide ban in place. There are several reasons for Michigan to require EBI in animal control shelters. First, it is considered the most humane method of euthanasia for the animal. Second, it is safer for shelter workers in two respects. The carbon monoxide used in chambers can and has caused shelter workers to suffer serious injury and even death. Studies also show increased compassion fatigue and psychological stress for shelter workers using gas chambers as opposed to EBI. Third, studies show that EBI is more cost effective than gas chambers.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2015-SB-0403>